

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-5, 7-18, 20-31, and 33-50 are pending in this application. The Office has allowed claims 1-5, 7-18, 20-31 and 33-43.

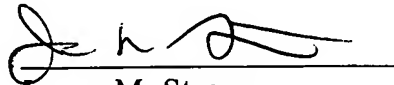
In addition, the Office has rejected claims 48-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Office has, however, noted that claims 48-50 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection. Pursuant to the Office's suggestion, Applicant has amended claims 48-50 to recite "***when*** the predicted cardinality is less than or equal to a predefined threshold value," thereby overcoming this rejection (emphasis added). Claims 48-50 are, therefore, also allowable.

Finally, the Office has rejected claims 44-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,594,898 to Dalal et al. (hereinafter "Dalal"). Applicant has canceled claims 44-46, as well as claim 47 which depends there from, thereby addressing this rejection.

Conclusions

In light of the above, Applicant asks the Office to reconsider this application and allow all of the now pending claims. Please apply any charges that might be due, excepting the issue fee but including fees for extensions of time, to deposit account 14-0255.

Respectfully,



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